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IN THE CLAIMS

The status of each claim is provided below.

1. (Currently Amended) An isolated strain of *Saccharomyces cerevisiae*, which can
contains 1% by weight or more of γ -glutamylcysteine and contains 0.004-0.1% by weight of
glutathione during its logarithmic growth phase, when the strain is cultured in a medium in
which a glutathione synthetase deficient strain of *Saccharomyces cerevisiae* shows a slower
growth rate than a wild strain in a minimal medium.
2. Canceled.
3. Canceled.
4. (Currently Amended) An isolated strain of *Saccharomyces cerevisiae*, wherein
glutathione synthetase encoded by a glutathione synthetase gene on a chromosome has
deletion of a C terminus region from an arginine residue at a position of 370 which produces
glutathione synthetase of which amino acid residues of the 370th position and thereafter are
deleted.
5. (Currently Amended) A yeast Yeast extract produced by culturing the a strain of
Saccharomyces cerevisiae according to claim 1 in a suitable medium and utilizing the
obtained cells extracting or digesting the cells of the cultured strain.

6. (Withdrawn) A method for breeding a strain of *Saccharomyces cerevisiae* containing γ -glutamylcysteine, comprising the steps of:
constructing recombinant strains of *Saccharomyces cerevisiae* in which glutathione synthetase gene is modified by a gene recombination technique and selecting a recombinant strain that contains 0.004-0.1% by weight of glutathione during its logarithmic growth phase when the strain is cultured in a medium in which a glutathione synthetase deficient strain of *Saccharomyces cerevisiae* shows a slower growth rate than a wild strain.

7. Canceled.

8. Canceled.

9. (Currently Amended) A Yeast extract produced by culturing the a strain of *Saccharomyces cerevisiae* according to claim 4 in a suitable medium and utilizing the obtained cells extracting or digesting the cells of the cultured strain.

SUPPORT FOR THE AMENDMENT

Claims 1 and 4 have been amended to specify an “isolated strain.”

Claim 1 has also been amended to specify a “minimal medium.” That amendment is supported by original Claim 3.

The amendment to Claim 4 is also supported by the specification at page 11, lines 18-20.

The amendment to Claims 5 and 9 is supported by the specification at page 16, lines 9-15.

No new matter is believed to have been added to the application by the amendments submitted above.